This program prepares students to meet basic requirements to be an Early Childhood Care Director. DCFS requires two years of college credit in any area, with at least 18 credit hours in Early Childhood Education.

**THIS PROGRAM IS NOT FOR STUDENTS PLANNING TO BECOME REGULARLY CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS!** Students interested in teaching in the elementary schools in Illinois should follow the Associate in Arts Degree programs in pre-teacher education or pre-early childhood education. Consult a counselor or advisor for further information.

**LICENSING INFORMATION:** In Illinois, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is responsible for setting standards and licensing day care centers, homes, group homes and day care agencies in the State of Illinois. According to the DCFS regulations, a child care director must be at least 21 years old, have completed two years of college, or must have equivalent experience and credentials. The director and all child care staff must have 15 hours of in-service training annually. All day care center staff are subject to background checks for any record of criminal conviction or child abuse and neglect. For more information, call DCFS Chicago Headquarters at (312) 814-6800 or visit the website:

**Department of Children and Family Services**  
[www.state.il.us/dcfs](http://www.state.il.us/dcfs)

**Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies**  
[www.ilchildcare.org](http://www.ilchildcare.org)

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (30 credits)

- **ECED 103** 3 cr Health, Safety, and Nutrition *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)*
- **ECED 104** 3 cr Introduction to Early Childhood Education *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)*
- **ECED 120** 3 cr Child, Family and Community *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)*  
  ([Cross-listed as EDU 120](#))
- **ECED 130** 3 cr Guidance and Classroom Management *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)*  
  ([Cross-listed as EDU 130](#))
- **ECED 213** 3 cr Multicultural Education *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)*  
  ([Cross-listed as EDU 213](#))
- **ECED 217** 3 cr Administration of ECED Centers - Personnel, Families and Children
- **ECED 218** 3 cr Administration of ECED Centers - Practices and Procedures
- **ECED 251** 3 cr Curriculum Design for Early Childhood Programs *(Prereq. ED 101 & ECED 104 or instructor consent)*
- **ED 101** 3 cr Child Growth and Development *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)*

- **ELECTIVES** 3 cr  
  Select 3 credits from the following, based on the recommendation of the Coordinator:
  - **ECED 150**  Intro to Early Childhood Admin - Legal Requirements (1)
  - **ECED 151**  Intro to Early Childhood Admin - Program Operations (1)
  - **ECED 152**  Intro to Early Childhood Admin - Facilities Management (1)
  - **ECED 219**  Applied Early Childhood Center Administration (3)
  - **ECED 298**  Admin of an Early Childhood Center Internship (3)

**NOTE:** Previous Prairie State College coursework, for courses with prefixes of CD or EDUC, taken prior to 1997, cannot be used toward credit in this program. For further information, consult with the Transcript Evaluator in the Office of Admissions.

- Must also have an additional thirty (30) hours of college credit in any field. (Must be documented by submitting official college transcripts)
- Attained a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in the courses identified in this certificate program.
- **Current cumulative GPA:**
  - Completed a minimum of one-half of the credit hours required as a student at PSC.
  - Filed a [Graduation Petition Form](#) with the Office of Enrollment Services.

**Deadline for filing:** October 1 for Winter, March 1 for Spring, July 1 for Summer. *(December, May & August candidates may choose to participate in the annual May Commencement Ceremony. Deadline to apply for ceremony is March 1st).*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required: 30 (+30 additional credits) = 60 credits</td>
<td>Completed:</td>
<td>In Progress:</td>
<td>Needed:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advised By:**  
**SIGNATURE:** Counselor or Advisor or Faculty Advisor  
**Date:**

This is an UNOFFICIAL evaluation. Official Evaluations must be requested in the Office of Enrollment Services.

**IMPORTANT PSC GRADUATION POLICIES**

1. If the degree or certificate requirements are changed during your continuous attendance, you may elect to satisfy either the new requirements or the ones in force when you enrolled.
2. If you withdraw from Prairie State College for either a fall or spring semester, you must satisfy requirements in force at the time you re-enroll.
3. Requests for COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS in the program must be directed to the Program Coordinator. A Course Substitution Form must be signed by the Program Coordinator and submitted to the Office of Enrollment Services at least one semester prior to graduation.
4. Petitions for alteration of other graduation requirements must be submitted on a Student Appeal Form at least one semester prior to graduation.
DIVISION OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Program Coord:
Dept. Chair: Chris Fogarty  Room 2167  (708) 709-3628  cfogarty@prairiestate.edu
Division Dean Eligie Wilson  Room 2120  (708) 709-7767  ewilson@prairiestate.edu

CAREER PLANNING/PLACEMENT INFORMATION:
Department of Children and Family Services: www.state.il.us/dcfs
Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies: www.ilchildcare.org
Employment opportunities: www.collegecentral.com/prairiestate